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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/774,062	01/31/2001	Masaomi Iizumi	PADE:059	1823

7590 06/09/2004

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.
1421 Prince Street, Suite 210
Alexandria, VA 22314-2805

EXAMINER

YE, LIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/774,062

Applicant(s)

IIIZUMI ET AL.

Examiner

Lin Ye

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S. C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Randmae U.S. Patent 5,032,919.

Referring to claim 1, the Randmae reference discloses in Figure 5, a focus adjustment mechanism for a video or image pickup apparatus (See Col. 1, lines 55-60) comprising: a main frame (front panel 14, See Col.2, line 46); a focus adjusting ring (17, see Col. 2, line 56) rotatably engaged with an annular lens seat, said lens seat protruding forward from a front surface of said main frame for supporting an image pickup lens (See Col. 1, lines 61-65); an imaging element (20, see Col. 2, lines 53-54) mount located inside said main frame so as to oppose to said focus adjusting ring for supporting an imaging element, said imaging element mount being shiftable in an optic-axial direction of said image pickup lens in response to rotational motion of said focus adjusting ring (See Col. 1, lines 55-60); a pressing member (spring 50, see Col. 3, line 41) for pressing said imaging element (20) mount toward said focus adjusting ring (17); a plurality of protrusions (cam follower 42, se Col. 3, lines1-2) provided on an outer cylindrical portion of said imaging element mount (carrier 22, see Col.

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2, line 55); a rail groove (not shown, see Col.3, line 63), provided on an outer cylindrical portion of said focus adjusting ring, said rail groove extending in a circumferential direction of said focus adjusting ring (See Col. 3, lines 45-53); a plurality of engaging protrusions (60 and 68, see Col. 3, lines 44-45 and lines 63-65) provided on the front surface of said main frame around said lens seat and engaged with said rail groove of said focus adjusting ring; and cam means provided on said focus adjusting ring (17) so as to oppose to said imaging element mount and contact with said protrusions provided on said outer cylindrical portion of said imaging element mount, for increasing a distance between said imaging element mount and said focus adjusting ring against a pressing force of said pressing member (50) when said focus adjusting ring rotates in one direction and for allowing said imaging element mount urged by the pressing force of said pressing member to approach toward said focus adjusting ring when said focus adjusting ring rotates in an opposite direction (See Col.3, lines 62-67 and Col. 4, lines 1-8).

Referring to claim 3, the Randmae reference discloses wherein a plurality of notched portions (slots 46, see Col.4, lines 11-12) are formed on the outer cylindrical portion of said focus adjusting ring (17) at predetermined intervals in the circumferential direction so as to be continuums with said rail groove (see Col.3, line 63), said engaging protrusions (tab 68, see Col. 3, line 62) are slid into said rail groove via said notched portions (46) and engaged with said rail groove, said focus adjusting ring (17) has a stopper (stops 48, See Col. 3, line 55) which hits against the protrusions of said imaging element mount (42) so that rotation of said focus adjusting ring rotates in said the opposite direction (See Col. 3, lines 50-61), and said engaging protrusions are angularly offset from said notched portions when said adjusting

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ring (17) is held at said predetermined angular position (See Col. 3, lines 61-67 and Col. 4, lines 1-8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 2 rejected under 35 U.S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Randmae U.S. Patent 5,032,919 in view of Takahashi U.S Patent 5,739,853.

Referring to claim 2, the Randmae reference discloses all subject matter as discussed in respected claim 1, except that the reference does not show at least one ligulate member protrudes from the imaging element mount (22) and is slidable along a rod member provided on the main body, and pressing member comprises at least one coil spring disposed around the rod member so that the imaging element mount (22) is resiliently urged by said coil spring toward said focus adjusting ring (17).

The Takahashi reference discloses in Figures 1-2, the focus adjustment mechanism comprising at least one ligulate member (mounting boss 121, see Col. 3, lines 18-20) protrudes from the outer cylindrical portion of said imaging element mount (bracket 12, see

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Col. 2, line 60) and is slidable along a rod member (positioning pins 113, see Col. 3, line 34) provided on the main body (escutcheon 11, see Col. 2, line 59) when said imaging element mount (12) slides (See Col. 3, lines 24-35), and said pressing member comprises at least one coil spring (16) disposed around said rod member (113) and at least one pressing plate spring (plate spring 15, see Col. 2, line 62) detachably engaged with said main frame and holding said coil spring in a compressed condition so that the said imaging element mount is resiliently urged by said coil spring toward said focus adjusting (See Col. 3, lines 42-53). The Takahashi reference is an evidence that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time to see more advantages that the focus adjustment mechanism including a flexible suitable shape imaging element mount so that enabling a high-precision focus adjustment. For that reason, it would have been obvious to see the focus adjustment including at the least one ligulate member protrudes from the imaging element mount (22) and is slidable along a rod member provided on the main body, and pressing member comprises at least one coil spring disposed around the rod member so that the imaging element mount (22) is resiliently urged by said coil spring toward said focus adjusting ring (17) disclosed by Randmae.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - a. Johnson U.S 5,825,559 discloses an optical assembly includes a lens assembly having a lens barrel for supporting g a lens.

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- b. Labaziewicz U.S 5,333,024 discloses optical apparatus having first and second lens groups moveable along an optical axis.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lin Ye whose telephone number is (703) 305-3250. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306


Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 11, 2121 Crystal drive,

Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Lin Ye

May 27, 2004


WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600